

17 Arrested in House

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Hearing Disorders

Many Ejected Shouting Anti-Viet-War Slogans as Committee Opens Probe

200 Demonstrators March From Meeting To White House

By Leroy F. Aarons
Washington Post Staff Writer

Seventeen Vietnam war opponents were arrested yesterday in a series of fracas that erupted during a House Un-American Activities subcommittee hearing on a bill aimed at the anti-Vietnam war movement.

During the morning session, Capitol Police and U.S. marshals in plain clothes dragged nine persons—some of them screaming, "Get out of Vietnam!"—from the caucus room of the Cannon House Office Building, past 200 shouting war protesters in the corridor to police patrol wagons.

Eight more Vietnam war opponents were removed by police in a noisy scuffle during the lunch break along the waiting line that stretched from the hearing room 200 feet back around the corridor. Nearly everyone in line was there to support 12 anti-Vietnam activists subpoenaed by the subcommittee headed by Rep. Joe Pool (D-Tex.)

Witnesses said the lunch

Some Congressmen Assail Corcoran For Injunction

By Richard Harwood
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Un-American Activities Committee, confronted with a constitutional challenge in the Federal courts, labored unproductively yesterday through a riotous inquiry into campus protests against the war in Vietnam.

Defiant youngsters of the New Left, cheered on by a few representatives of Women Strike for Peace, taunted the Committee, turned its chambers and surrounding corridors into forums for new anti-war protests, and left it at day's end with no facts and no evidence not already contained in its voluminous files.

Rep. Joe Pool (D-Tex.), who presided, gaveled himself into a state of near-exhaustion in a futile attempt to maintain the decorum and order to which Congress is accustomed.

Besides the disorder, Pool had to contend during the afternoon with a filibuster from 23-year-old Jeffrey Gordon of Brooklyn College in New York, who returned from a morning

time melee began when police refused to allow a young man who had left the line briefly to reclaim his place. Most of those in the queue had been waiting for three hours to get into the packed committee room.

March to White House

Later, the 200 sympathizers marched out of the Cannon Building to the White House, where they demonstrated for 20 minutes against the House Un-American Activities Committee and American participation in the Vietnam conflict.

The day began quietly at 10 a.m. with the crowd of orderly, well-dressed Vietnam war opponents, mostly in the teens and early twenties, lined up outside the hearing room. The corridor was guarded by a cordon of Capitol and Metropolitan policemen. Most of the crowd had arrived on chartered buses from New York Monday evening and yesterday morning.

An undetermined number of the war protesters were admitted to the hearing room with congressional staff members, the press and other spectators. Shortly before noon, while Phillip A. Luce, who broke with the anti-war movement, was testifying, Jeffrey Gordon jumped up from the audience and shouted, "Let's

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trip to the D.C. Jail to assail Pool as a "racist," describe President Johnson as a "murderer" and denounce the Committee for attempting to make of him a "fink" informer.

Injunction Dissolved

Just before all this began, a special panel of three judges met a few blocks away and dissolved an injunction against the Committee's meeting which had been issued Monday night by Federal District Judge Howard F. Corcoran. The panel, named by Chief Judge David Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals, included Judge Corcoran, Judge Bazelon and Appeals Court Judge Charles Fahy. It concluded unanimously that no "irreparable injury" would result if yesterday's hearing proceeded as scheduled.

The panel agreed, however, to hear at 2:30 p.m. today arguments from the American Civil Liberties Union on the issue of the constitutionality of HUAC and its right to inquire into "un-American" activities.

Arthur Kinoy, an ACLU attorney, said this will be the first time in American history that a Federal court has accepted a constitutional challenge of a legislative function in a civil case.

If the judges rule that
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By Jim McNamara, Staff Photographer

PROTEST—Anti-war demonstrators picket the White House after leaving the HUAC hearing room.

PROTEST—From A1

17 Protesters Against War Are Arrested

stop this fake hearing. United States get out of Vietnam."

Gordon, from New York City and one of the 13 subpoenaed witnesses, was promptly grabbed by marshals and dragged out of the hearing room, yelling, "I'm a witness, you hear. Get out of Vietnam," to the cheers of his supporters outside.

A few minutes later, Rick Rhoads, 22, of New York, another of the 12 witnesses, shot up, pointed to the door through which Gordon had just been whisked, and yelled, "That's HUAC's democratic dialogue." He was removed.

About 15 minutes afterward, five others went the same way after Warren Pierce, also of New York, shouted, "This hearing is phony."

During the lunchtime adjournment, Capitol and Metropolitan police increased their forces from 30 to 60 to help contain the now-aroused crowd outside the hearing room.

The incident on the waiting line occurred about 1:40 p.m. Witnesses claimed that one youth was stamped on and others were mauled, but police denied the allegations.

The crowd's mood was fur-

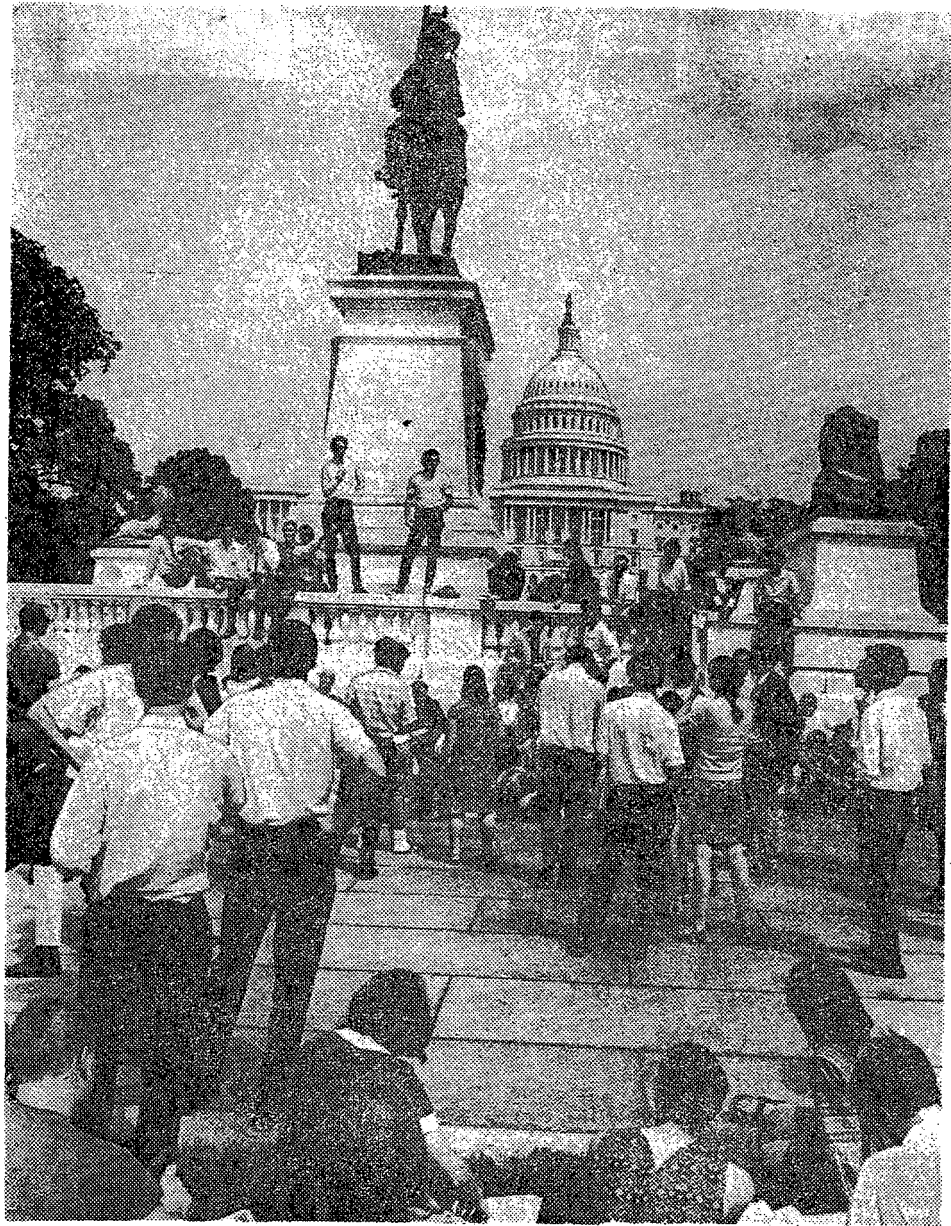
ther aggravated when only 20 of them were allowed into the hearing room for the afternoon session. Most of the seats were given to staff members.

At 2:45 p.m. the entire group suddenly abandoned the line and walked out of the building, chanting, "End the war in Vietnam. Bring the troops home."

At the Grant statue on Capitol Plaza, where they gathered for a strategy session, Myron Jefko, 23, of New York, a member of Youth Against War and Fascism, told the group, "The HUAC hearing is an inquisition for Johnson's war machine. It's just a cover because he doesn't want to do it himself. Let's go to the White House."

Armed with picket signs supplied by an anti-war committee, the protesters marched the 15 blocks to the White House for their brief demonstration. Of those arrested earlier and charged with disorderly conduct, ten forfeited collateral ranging from \$10 to \$25, five posted collateral in General Sessions Court for an appearance today, and two juveniles were released in the custody of adults for appearance in Juvenile Court.

One of the juveniles required four stitches at D.C. General Hospital for a cut upper lip.



By Jim McNamara, Staff Photographer

ANTI-WAR PLANS—After the hearings, demonstrators hold a caucus at Grant Statue on the Mall to listen to speakers and decide on further action.

House Probe of Viet War Critics Opens

HUAC has exceeded its constitutional authority and they should attempt to enjoin the Committee from functioning, it could cause a historic test of the principle of separation of powers. The issue would involve the power of the judiciary to interfere with the legislative process.

Judge Under Attack

Even as the judges met to consider the issue yesterday, Congress was in an uproar. There were demands in the House for the impeachment of Judge Corcoran.

Congress and the courts, Rep. Richard H. Poff (R-Va.) declared, are on a "collision course" in which "representative democracy" is pitted against "judicial oligarchy." Another Virginian, Rep. Porter Hardy (D), suggested that Judge Corcoran might be cited for contempt and tried by the House for having issued the restraining order against HUAC.

One voice raised in defense of the Court was that of Rep. Charles Weltner (D-Ga.), himself a HUAC member. Court orders, even though they may be invalid, should not be defied, he said.

Ready To Defy Order

Pool disagreed and an hour before the hearing began said he had no intention of delaying the inquiry, no matter what the courts might rule. A policeman was on guard outside his door and his secretaries were busy opening wires from well-wishers across the country. One telegram compared him with Texas heroes Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie. Another demanded that Chief Justice Earl Warren be impeached. Another said: "Down with judicial government. Long live constitutional government. Go, go, go, Joe." Most of the messages from California.

When Pool arrived at the hearing room in the Cannon Office Building, the corridors were crowded with people waiting to get in, many of them college students from California and New York. Inside, about half the seats were already filled, mainly with con-

gressional staff members who were given priority and reserved seats in the chamber.

There were dozens of policemen and U.S. marshals in the room and so dense a crowd of photographers that Pool and the first witness, Phillip Abbott Luce, were obscured from the audience.

It took more than an hour to clear them away and for the Committee to dispose of challenges to its authority by various lawyers representing hostile witnesses such as Gordon, who was ejected early in the proceedings.

Pool overruled all the legal points raised, including an argument that the Committee was an unconstitutional body because several of its members—Pool among them—were elected from districts in which Negroes are systematically denied the right to vote.

Witness Is Hissed

A little after 11 a.m., witness Luce took the stand and was greeted with hisses and cries of "fink" from the audience.

Luce, 29, is a former leader of the radical New Left. In 1964 he joined the Progressive Labor Party (then called the Progressive Labor Movement) because he believed, he told the Committee, that American social and political problems could not be solved "through democratic processes . . . a social revolution was needed." He found the American Communist Party too conservative at that time, he said, and chose the PLP because it was more militant and more attuned to the Chinese wing of the party.

He quit the PLP within six months and exposed its activities in a book because, said Luce, it was "totalitarian" and dedicated to concepts of freedom which he did not share.

Luce said the PLP and all other Communist organizations in the United States are miniscule, with perhaps 5000 members altogether. But they are dedicated to revolution and are prepared to wait until circumstances are right to attempt to seize power by force, he said.

The PLP, he said, plays a major role in agitating among

students against the war in Vietnam. They enlist the support of non-Communist students who have humanitarian aims but are ignorant, he said, of PLP policies and procedures.

He named Gordon as one of the leaders of PLP and an associated campus organization, the May 2d Movement, which has attempted to collect blood, money and medical supplies for North Vietnamese and Vietcong war casualties.

Luce, nattily dressed in the button-down style, left the witness stand under the protection of two U.S. marshals, and also under the protection of Pool's warning of criminal sanctions against threat or injury to Committee witnesses. Critics in the audience hissed him as "the young man's Whittaker Chambers."

Gordon Is Hostile Witness

Gordon followed him to the stand in mid-afternoon and was barely in his chair before he began a denunciation of the Committee and of American policies in Vietnam.

In the two and a half hours that followed, he so exasperated and frustrated the Committee with his lectures and unresponsive answers that the whole chamber, at one point, burst into laughter (led by Pool) at the futility of the confrontation.

"My name," the witness said, "is Jeffrey Gordon and I identify with the American Revolution."

"I recall another fellow who identified with the American Revolution," Pool retorted. "His first name was Benedict."

The audience cheered Pool's bon mot because by then it was composed almost entirely of congressional employees. The crowds sympathetic to Gordon had been systematically excluded by officers at the door.

'Finks' and 'Clinks'

Gordon gave a lengthy, ideological summary of his life ("I was born during the war against fascism") that included three and a half years at the University of California and Brooklyn College, and a brief stint on Time magazine in the

editorial reference department in 1962.

He accused the Committee of asking both "fink" and "clink" questions — A "fink" question, as defined by Gordon, involving informing on others. A "clink" question, he said, was designed to entrap him.

On two or three occasions he resorted to the Fifth Amendment to avoid responding, as he put it, to "fink" and "clink" questions.

But he admitted "proudly" his role in PLP and in the the May 2d Movement and declared that his agitation against the war was true Americanism. "My interest in this country," he declared, "is to see that no more Americans die in Vietnam . . . You, Johnson and big business, are sending them there to die. I am not sending them, so don't try to cast aspersions on me."

The hearing will resume at 10 a.m. today.